

# Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

## February 25, 1999

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### Treasurer,

It is my very great pleasure and privilege to introduce to you and to Convocation a person who actually needs no introduction whatsoever. If I were to simply ask you, Treasurer, to confer an honorary degree on "Eddie," everyone would know who I meant and why it was being rewarded. However, because I know him well, I thought I might use this opportunity to tell you about the Eddie I know.

A week ago, Eddie called me. He wanted to see my remarks in advance. I demurred. He insisted. I firmly declined. He announced he wasn't coming if I didn't give in. I think he actually meant it, so I faxed him an introduction I had no intention of delivering. I tell you this because it tells you volumes about how Eddie thinks and works. He does nothing without in depth preparation and he would no more think to respond to my comments off the cuff than he would to plead a client guilty. For many years, we shared space as lawyers. I once returned to the office at 2:00 a.m. because I needed a file for an out-of-town case. I saw Eddie's light on and found him reading at his desk piled high with books. "What are you doing?" I asked - "preparing a lecture for the Bar Ad course of Jury Address" he said - "How many times have you given that lecture?" - "about 18 times" he said. "So why are you here at 2:00 a.m.?" - "I'm reworking it."

This is a man of enormous talent and charm, but he has never forgotten that his style is no substitute for hard work, and preparation. No lawyer in Canada works more prodigiously. Eddie takes nothing in a case for granted. He has been described



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by some as a workaholic, but that would not be true. Eddie has never let work interfere with what he perceives to be his community obligations, his teaching, his writing and his insatiable curiosity about the world which he attempts to rectify by constant travel. He is in every way a respected and well-rounded person. His beloved wife Susie would probably say – too well-rounded.

Two years ago he was invited to address the graduating class and Eddie spent most of his speech complaining that most previous speakers were honoured with an honorary degree. Why, he asked, was he being left out? His speech was, despite that criticism, caring and inspirational for our graduates and, thus he was asked again, to address a the call to the Bar. Not willing to face the criticism again, I importuned the Treasurer and now you know why Eddie is last receiving an honorary degree.

His teaching career at Osgoode Hall and University of Toronto, his willingness to share his skills and knowledge with the bar at countless CLE courses, his dedication to Human Rights and the Civil Liberties Association and his one man cross-Canada Campaign to prevent the introduction of the death penalty, his editorship of the Criminal Law Reports and Martin's Criminal Code, are all besides the point.

I ask you, Treasurer, to confer upon Edward L. Greenspan the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa because there is no practicing lawyer that has given so freely to his profession and is so deserving of this honour.